

have been used to deadly effect, beginning infamously with the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. We need to balance these very real security concerns against the vital value of ammonium nitrate fertilizer to the U.S. plant food industry, its many local retail agribusiness outlets, and the farmers and livestock producers they serve.

Ammonium nitrate fertilizes our Nation's crops, and it helps the American economy grow. It provides a relatively inexpensive source of the nitrogen required to grow crops, and it has economic, agronomic, and environmental benefits to the entire society. It can also, however, be used to create explosive devices, as demonstrated by the Oklahoma City bombing as well as by subsequent terrorist plots in 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2004.

According to a 1998 National Research Council report, "Containing the Threat From Illegal Bombings," short of a method of neutralizing the explosive properties of ammonium nitrate, which we do not yet have, commercial controls and regulatory action "offer the best means of reducing the threat from illegal bombings."

H.R. 1680 will require the creation of these controls and regulations. This bill will provide the Department of Homeland Security with the authority to develop a nationally consistent, effective, and integrated approach to control access to ammonium nitrate, and it will require the Department to develop a regulatory system aimed at keeping these fertilizers away from those who would use it to threaten our Nation. Under the provisions of this legislation, the Department of Homeland Security will register all producers, sellers, and purchasers of ammonium nitrate, and those who purchase and take custody of this product will be required to provide their names, addresses, and telephone numbers to the Department. All of these individuals will be accountable for any ammonium nitrate they take possession of.

In addition, this legislation will require producers and sellers to maintain records of all sales and transfers for at least three years. Sellers will have the right to refuse sale to prevent misappropriation of this potentially dangerous substance, and they will be provided with guidance on identifying suspicious activity, as well as how to alert law enforcement officials to such behavior. Additionally, producers and sellers will be required to report any loss or theft to law enforcement within 24 hours.

This legislation also provides further means for enforcement, establishing a process for the Department to track, monitor, and audit the ammonium nitrate records. Under the provisions of this bill, enforcement may be delegated to States where cooperative agreements and sufficient funding exist. To punish violations, the Department may levy civil fines of up to \$50,000. This legislation does not preempt or alter any State statute providing additional protection against ammonium nitrate falling into the hands of terrorists.

Yet in our counterterrorism efforts we should not lose sight of the need to protect the American farmer, especially small and minority farmers struggling to make ends meet on the family farm. Ammonium nitrate is an essential tool they use to sustain themselves and their families and those essential needs should not be overlooked. Our counterterrorism efforts should not be detrimental to the continued availability of ammonium nitrate fertilizer to

U.S. farmers, endangering their way of life and threatening their livelihoods.

H.R. 1680 offers an opportunity to strengthen our defenses against the threat of terrorism without placing an extraordinary burden on industry. This legislation has the support of the Fertilizer Institute, an industry group representing most fertilizer producers.

Mr. Speaker, as our Nation's leaders, it is our responsibility to be proactive, and to make every effort to remain several steps ahead of any who might attack our country. This bill is an opportunity to do just that, to not wait for another devastating attack to address what we already recognize to be a serious security threat. I strongly support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

#### FOREIGN GANGS OPERATING IN THE UNITED STATES

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, since June, national law enforcement agencies have teamed up with their state and local counterparts. The result? The arrest of more than 1,300 violent street gang members, associates, and illegal aliens in 19 states.

In 2005, the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement launched a national effort called Operation Community Shield. This effort has already led to the arrests of over 7,600 gang members from 700 different gangs; 107 were gang leaders. ICE agents also seized 340 grams of cocaine and over 1 lb. of marijuana and crack cocaine.

Operation Community Shield focuses on keeping criminal gangs off our streets. ICE agents investigate the crimes and the immigration status of the criminals. Since 2005, ICE charged 5200 gang members with immigration violations and processed them for deportation.

This is a great example of successful law enforcement partnerships. Local, state, and federal anti-gang efforts are leading the fight against street gangs. These partnerships allow law enforcement agents to share resources and leadership and to arrest, prosecute, imprison and deport criminal and illegal alien gang members. And that's just the way it is.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID B. HUMPTON

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David B. Humpton for his twenty-two years of service to the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Mr. Humpton began his career with the City of Gaithersburg in 1986 as an intern and quickly rose to the position of Deputy City Manager. Having proven himself as a dynamic and capable leader, Mr. Humpton was appointed City Manager in 1995. During his 17-year tenure, Mr. Humpton has guided the city through significant change and growth with dedication and commitment.

As City Manager, Mr. Humpton has had numerous significant accomplishments. Among other successes, he developed a strategic planning process, implemented new procedures to streamline the budget process, and served as an effective advocate for inter-governmental collaboration. Mr. Humpton's management has been instrumental in the completion of several notable development projects, including the Washingtonian Center and the Kentlands. Under his leadership, Gaithersburg has been recognized for its "livability," economic development initiatives, budgeting and accounting, communications and recreation services.

Mr. Humpton's "retirement" will be short-lived as he will soon join Montgomery Village, Maryland as its top administrator. His experience as an effective administrator will serve him well as he meets the challenges of his new position.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor Mr. David Humpton for his outstanding service.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF OFFICER SERGIO CARRERA, JR.

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today in remembrance of a distinguished member of the Rialto community, Officer Sergio Carrera, Jr.

While serving his community, Sergio Carrera, Jr., 29, a 4-year veteran of the force and a member of the SWAT team, lost his life in the line of duty. Despite efforts by doctors at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton, Officer Carrera passed away leaving his wife, Louise Andrea Carrera, 2-year-old son, Sergio Carrera III, and 1-year-old daughter, Izabella.

A dedicated member of the Rialto community, Officer Carrera was hired by the Rialto Police Department in June 2003 and loyally served 4 years of his life to ensure the safety of the citizens of Rialto. Along with Carrera's wife and children, his father, Sergio Carrera caring mother, Aurora Carrera, and siblings, Shirley Magana and Susan Colao, mourn the sudden loss of their dear son and brother.

While it is with sadness that we mourn the unexpected death of this valiant officer, we think of him with joy and fondness as we recognize his devotion to family, friends, and the city of Rialto. The use of his life to protect and ensure the safety of our community is unquestionable. Although now gone, in his absence we will remember the significance of selfless servitude that so many of our public officers show for our citizens on a daily basis.

I thank Officer Sergio Carrera, Jr., for dedicating his life to the city and people of Rialto, CA. I am honored to consider him a hero and I truly appreciate all he gave to our community and our country.

Barbara, my family, and I extend our deepest condolences to Officer Carrera's family during this difficult time. May God bestow his comfort upon them as they grieve the loss of their loved one.